

JUDGE SCANLAN AND FEDERAL JUDGES

Judge Scanlan was right in refusing to accept a federal judge as the third arbitrator in the street railway arbitration.

There are some federal judges who are just men and could be trusted, but federal judges as a generality don't enjoy general public confidence in the present stage of public enlightenment.

The people have been finding out how Standard Oil and other predatory interests have been hand-picking federal judges for docile, grateful and obliging presidents.

And it wouldn't be safe to trust judges hand-picked by Johnny Archbold, Senator Penrose, Senator Murray Crane, Senator Guggenheim, or even the big bosses and big interests of Chicago.

There is no telling nowadays just what vicious influence and pull got a federal judge his job; and federal judges are probably too human to bite the hand that feeds them.

Anyhow it's a cinch that no federal judge got on the bench because he was friendly to organized labor.

VICE INVESTIGATION LOOKS LIKE A GRAND FIZZLE

More than ever it begins to look as if the grand jury vice investigation were a grand bluff.

One of the witnesses called before the jury today was John F. Delaney, a Daily News reporter.

And Delaney did not testify about the protected-and-Mayor-Harrison-encouraged vice of the city. He testified about vice on the West Side.

The West Side is the cleanest district of the city, so far as vice is concerned, although this is not saying very much.

Police Captain Meagher of the Desplaines street station is division commander of the police on the West Side.

Meagher was removed from the North Side because he was cleaning up that district too well and thus offending the friends of Mayor Harrison.

Since Meagher has been in

command on the West Side the entire district has improved 100 per cent so far as vice conditions are concerned.

If the grand jury wants to investigate vice why doesn't it investigate the administration-protected vice of the city?

This grand jury came out with a big newspaper talk as to what it was going to do.

Then it began investigating vice in West Hammond, and now it is worrying about the West Side.

That doesn't look as if the grand jury meant business. Or perhaps the real meaning of it is that the grand jury means well, but is afraid.

The grand jurors have no business to be afraid. If they will go ahead and do their sworn duty, the citizens of Chicago will back them up.